

Tuesday Feb. 27th. Dr. Gary Fellers, USGS, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Bldg. 1050, Fort Cronkhite

Title: The Role of Contaminants and Disease in the Decline of Amphibians in California

Abstract: Several species of native amphibians are experiencing severe population declines in of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. This is occurring in some of the largest wilderness areas including Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks. There is strong evidence that prevailing westerly winds transport airborne pesticides from the Central Valley of California into the mountains where they are deposited with rain and snow. Our work demonstrates that environmentally realistic concentrations of commonly used pesticides can have impacts on native amphibians. Other research has shown that a newly described fungal disease in amphibians is widespread in Yosemite as well as Point Reyes National Seashore, but role of disease in amphibian declines is not clear.